

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Applicant has amended the claims to recite a layer of ruthenium. The Applicant therefore submits that the claims now comply with the first paragraph of §112.


The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Do in view of Takahashi. The Examiner rejected claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Do in view of Takahashi and further in view of Bian. As noted by the Examiner, Do does not disclose a chromium layer that consists of chromium. The Applicant has amended the claims to recite a layer consisting of chromium. Do does not disclose such a layer. Consequently, the combination of Do and Takahashi, or the combination of Do, Takahashi and Bian, does not contain all the limitations of the claims. For this reason, the Applicant submits that the references cited by the Examiner do not render unpatentable claims 1-10 of the above entitled application.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

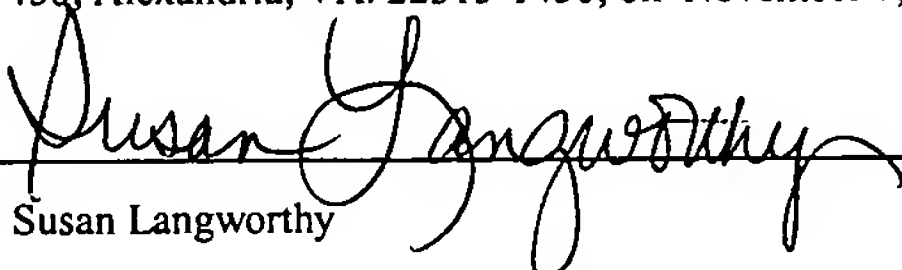
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the U.S. Mail, First Class, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, on November 7, 2005.


Susan Langworthy Nov. 7, 2005
Date